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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1910.

HELIOGABALUS TO-DAY.

The world advances in many ways, but the luxurious appointments and the impressive equipages of the Emperor during his splendid reign would look like a one-horse market wagon compared with the display made by Heliohabalus, Emperor of Rome.

In 217 A. D., on the murder of Caracalla, Heliohabalus, his cousin, a beautiful boy, who had been appointed high priest of the Syrian sun god, was declared Emperor of Rome by the army. At once war broke out, and Marcius, the legitimate Emperor, was slain.

From 217 to 222 Heliohabalus reigned in Rome with such luxury and extravagance that even those accustomed to the mad revels of Nero revolted.

As a boy, the Emperor Heliohabalus would not leave his palace unless he was accompanied by sixty chariots. He burned jewels; he feasted on peacock tongues; he gave dinners that lasted from morn till night, each course being served in a different house and gold plate. But Heliohabalus, with all of his extravagance, never travelled in special trains. He never knew the luxurious delight of a private Pullman, or the modern conveniences of a well-stocked buffet. When Rome's darling Emperor wanted to kill wild beasts he used the Coliseum. It was not for him to travel in private cars under a special schedule for thousands of miles or more in order to find the Louisiana bear in the canebrakes.

But Heliohabalus was wholly to be pitied, for he was spared the sorrow of having to drop back to the rank of the plain, unimportant citizen, being slaughtered by his own soldiers. For Emperor and clown old habits are hard to break, and had he lived he would have remained obscure, finding no docile magazine willing to pay the cost of his excursions when his throne was taken from him. Some moderns fare better when they do not die before their debts fall due. As for example, to-day when the stubborn stockholders are demanding to know whether the Pennsylvania Railroad has a little account against Mr. Roosevelt of \$100,000 for trains furnished and food eaten; and the American people want to know whether the extravagance and self-indulgence of one administration is to establish a new basis of taxation for the whole country.

THE COST OF BAD ROADS.

What do bad roads cost? The usual question is, "What do good roads cost?" Statistics show that they call for an expenditure of from \$100 to \$4,000, depending on circumstances and conditions.

What do bad roads cost? That is looking at the problem from the other end. They cost this country more than one billion dollars annually. This loss constitutes a tremendous economic question, and the conservation of such an amount of money is one of the most important matters before the people to-day.

The average cost to haul one ton of farm produce one mile in the United States is 23 cents. In Europe it is just 8 cents. If our roads were good roads like those of Europe, the saving in transportation of farm produce in the United States would amount to \$250,000,000 each year.

It costs 3.8 cents per bushel to transport wheat from New York to Liverpool, but it costs the farmer 5.1 cents per bushel to haul the average of 9.4 miles from his farm to the railroad shipping point nearest him. The agricultural production alone of the United States for the past eleven years amounted to \$70,000,000,000, but it cost more to take this product from the farms to the railroad stations than from the same railroad stations to the American and European markets. The saving in moving this produce over good highways instead of bad ones would have yielded enough money to build a million miles of good roads, according to official estimate.

The waste caused by bad roads is incalculable. There are many considerations and savings that cannot be estimated in figures. To spend money on bad roads is to sink it so that no return can come from it; to spend money on good roads is to get results and to secure a permanent investment.

Good roads are the cheapest in the long run. Look at the question from both sides and no other conclusion can be reached.

THE BRITISH VIEW OF THE TARIFF AND ROOSEVELT.

Democratic victory in Maine is still reverberated, and the free traders of England are greatly heartened thereby. The English press is paying more attention to American politics now than at any time since the silver campaign of '92, and foremost in the discussion are the questions of free trade and the personality of Roosevelt. A remarkable consensus of opinion even among the protectionist papers admits that the cost of living is much cheaper in free trade England than in protected France, where meat is so valuable that nearly 60,000 tons of horse flesh alone are eaten in Paris every year, and "The Observer," the strongest protectionist paper in London, admits that the cost of living in England is probably thirty to fifty per cent, cheaper than in France.

In addition to these statements is the fact that English foreign trade amounts to one million pounds more than the year before, while unemployment is only about half what it was last year. These facts greatly heartened the free traders and discomfited the protectionists.

The Review of Reviews, edited by William Stead, says of the latter: "Since Mr. Chamberlain gave the cue, the tariff reformers have been doing little else than cry stinking fish before John Bull's shop morning, noon, and night. But at last the impudent conspiracy of that lying clique is pretty well exposed, and its authors are on their way to the pillory—

Second.

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the News is that there should be an extended legislative session because Virginia is a "progressive" State—because it is "energized with the spirit of a steadily expanding conquest in the fields of industrial, mining, manufacturing, commercial and agricultural development." This is reinforced by the statement that such prosperous conditions "create a demand for an evolution in public policy" which will require additional deliberation of thirty days, and the expenditure of thousands of dollars. The News thinks the additional period will be well worth the money it will cost.

Virginia is "progressive." It is striding forward. It has advanced a good deal more as a great State under a sixty-day session than it ever did with a ninety-day session in the good old days. It is doing very well, and we are not disposed to think that thirty days more of a legislative session will give much impetus to the progress of this Commonwealth. The progressive legislative body is not the one that "mulls" over matters and delays them and unduly "reflects" upon them; the progressive Legislature is characterized by the business-like manner in which it disposes of the propositions before it, taking as much time as is necessary, but no more.

What did the last General Assembly leave undone that it would have done had it had thirty days more of session? What was obstructed at the last Legislature in the course of sixty days that would have gone through in ninety days? Would there not be as many important bills left on the calendar at the conclusion of the longer session as there are at the end of the shorter?

The extension of the legislative session from sixty to ninety days is unwise and uncalled for. It will mean a cost of one-half as much again as the General Assembly costs now. The additional length of the session would keep many good men from serving in the General Assembly. The public business can be attended to adequately and satisfactorily in sixty days. The people of Virginia in the last place, do not demand this change; they are opposed to it; and if the voters are informed in time the proposed amendment will be buried beneath their ballots in November.

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If you mean Sir Roger Charles Tielchorn, whose mysterious disappearance at sea brought out the celebrated "buried" impostor trial, he was unmarried. His only child, a daughter, Felicie, natural daughter of Henry Seymour, of Knowle, in Wiltshire, and his wife, was James Francis Douglas Tielchorn, who have been married and find just where the entire Tielchorn estate is located. Probably a reader can answer that part of the question.

Motives and Subjects for Graduates. Please name a few motives for a graduating class of a first-class high school, and a few subjects for these.

K. C. Aut inveniam viam aut faciam (I shall either find a way or make one). Acquitte et taceas (Be silent and acquit). Carpe diem (Seize the present hour). Dulce est asperis (Sweet is the hard). Et spera (Do and hope). Fax mentis

There are fine prospects of Democratic victory in the State elections in Massachusetts this fall. The Democrats realize this, and they are going to put up a good man to win. They will have three unusually strong men from whom to pick the nominee for the governorship: Foss, Hamlin, and Vahey.

Foss was elected to Congress a few months ago in a district which had been Republican ever since its creation. He is an able man in every respect. Hamlin was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Cleveland, a man of unusual ability and high standing, and is especially strong as an advocate of the Democratic principles of tariff reform. Vahey has twice already been a candidate for the governorship, and last year came within an ace of defeating Draper, the Republican candidate. Any one of the trio would make an excellent candidate.

With Maine in the Democratic column, it looks as if Massachusetts could do nothing else but follow. Butler Ames cannot break the Lodge machine, one of the most powerful in the nation, but it looks as if the Democrats ought to have things their way in the State elections. They have a splendid chance, and they ought to put up their best men, and it looks as if they will.

GOOD FOR NORTH CAROLINA. This is cheering news that comes from our next door Southern neighbor. The Charlotte (N. C.) Chronicle tells us that probably not less than fifteen counties in North Carolina will change from the fee system of paying county officers to the plan of paying every officer a straight salary when the next legislature meets. This is what we in Virginia are striving to bring about, and the press of the State is nearly a unit in urging this change. The success of the movement in North Carolina is therefore encouraging to us, who hope to do even better things in Virginia when our legislature meets.

We are also told in the same editorial that the sentiment for the commission form of government for cities is going hand in hand with that for the abolition of the fee system in North Carolina. We believe that there is a strong growth of the same sentiment here, and we are gratified to see that at the convention of municipalities of this State to meet in Charlottesville in October, the chief matter under discussion, according to the schedule, will be the question of the commission form of government. Wherever the commission form of government has been tried it has measured up to all that was hoped for it, and more. It cannot fail to gain strength and impetus. The antiquated and cumbersome system that now obtains in most of the municipalities of the country has been shown by a thousand examples to be ill-fitted for modern conditions and for the purpose of municipal government. Our own Virginia municipalities have been infinitely better and more efficient than the great bulk of the municipal governments in other States; but they, from the very nature of things, cannot perform the necessary functions with the same promptness, economy and success as has been shown to be easily within the reach of the commission form.

A city is not a State; it is essentially a business organization; it is the business affairs of the city that should be looked after and attended to by the city government and not the affairs of the State or the nation. We are persuaded that the commission form of government is coming, and when it comes it will stay, and we are glad to know that our neighbor on the South is as deeply interested in the subject as we are.

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GOOD FOR NORTH CAROLINA. This is cheering news that comes from our next door Southern neighbor. The Charlotte (N. C.) Chronicle tells us that probably not less than fifteen counties in North Carolina will change from the fee system of paying county officers to the plan of paying every officer a straight salary when the next legislature meets. This is what we in Virginia are striving to bring about, and the press of the State is nearly a unit in urging this change. The success of the movement in North Carolina is therefore encouraging to us, who hope to do even better things in Virginia when our legislature meets.

We are also told in the same editorial that the sentiment for the commission form of government for cities is going hand in hand with that for the abolition of the fee system in North Carolina. We believe that there is a strong growth of the same sentiment here, and we are gratified to see that at the convention of municipalities of this State to meet in Charlottesville in October, the chief matter under discussion, according to the schedule, will be the question of the commission form of government. Wherever the commission form of government has been tried it has measured up to all that was hoped for it, and more. It cannot fail to gain strength and impetus. The antiquated and cumbersome system that now obtains in most of the municipalities of the country has been shown by a thousand examples to be ill-fitted for modern conditions and for the purpose of municipal government. Our own Virginia municipalities have been infinitely better and more efficient than the great bulk of the municipal governments in other States; but they, from the very nature of things, cannot perform the necessary functions with the same promptness, economy and success as has been shown to be easily within the reach of the commission form.

A city is not a State; it is essentially a business organization; it is the business affairs of the city that should be looked after and attended to by the city government and not the affairs of the State or the nation. We are persuaded that the commission form of government is coming, and when it comes it will stay, and we are glad to know that our neighbor on the South is as deeply interested in the subject as we are.

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